JL - HSCA Staff report on Jimmy Ray's contradictions 10/13/78

When I wrote you earlier this morning I'd read beginning with "Trip to New Orleans." Since then I've read to the end. If there is time before the mail I'll read the unread earlier parts. But I was mortly interested in the period closer to the crime.

My impression that aside from normal error and forgetfulness and the influences of his own special view and all the questionings Jimmy has lied in areas that can point to others is fortified. A significant point is where he tells about the first stages of his flight and says he never planned to go to New Orleans.

Where he tells stories that can't be believed and is consistent in them the committee has no interest. Like he got birth records of men not born in the same year bu looking at morgue microfilm for a single year only. And can t remember the name of the paper. ~~[illegible]~~

The committee missed more suggestions of conspiracy. There is no way he could have found Salt's signature of the Garner flophouse alone. So they are not interested in fact of the crime or of conspiracy. Or how he got a wrong middle name from a birth notice. Many things.

I found myself wondering why he changed his stories at points suggestive of conspiracy with one exception - pointing it up with regard to Raoul and the Garner deal. There he made it fairly clear that Raoul knew about the place in advance.

I have not changed my belief that he flipped out. But it is possible to add wonder over whether he got word from somebody to confuse as much as possible.

***I've finished reading what I'd skipped. The last thing is a dead giveaway- I was right about his lying where it could point to associates. It is about not losing his drivers license in L.A. He knows damned well that he did and that it has been published in detail. Yet he said he lost only the car keys and did not change when asked. (P. 41.)

Either the committee had no interest in what it had to interest itself in or it is saving things for the final report. I can't believe they would overlook this much that is obvious and relevant.